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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

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PROGRAM American Interests

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SUBJECT Terrorism

PETER KROUGH: The dramatic rescue of General James Dozier from the Italian Red Brigade provided a brief respite from a growing sense of helplessness in the face of international terrorism. But Dozier's release was also accompanied by predictions of violent retaliation and warnings that global terrorism is still on the rise.

Terrorism has been labeled international public enemy number one by the Reagan Administration, which is alarmed by increasing evidence of Russian, Cuban and Libyan sponsorship. But for Americans, terrorism has not been a local problem. During the last decade, 3600 people died in terrorist attacks around the world, but only 80 were killed in the United States. Nevertheless, Americans, especially diplomats and businessmen, are becoming the prime targets of terrorists abroad. About one-third of all terrorist incidents are now directed at American personnel or property. And concern about terrorism is reflected increasingly in our foreign policy. It has taken at least rhetorical precedence over concern for human rights. Abhorrence for terrorism is one factor that has restrained three Presidents from dealing directly with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. And the debate over who is responsible for the most terror in El Salvador, the government or the insurgents, may ultimately determine the direction of our policy there.

Tonight we'll look at the challenge of global terrorism to American interests at home and abroad with William Colby, former Director of the CIA and Scott Thompson, a leading authority on terrorism and professor at the Fletcher School of Law and diplomacy.

Gentlemen, is the alarm sounded by this Administration